



The **UNabridged**

THE CONCORDIA STUDENT UNION NEWSLETTER



Make Your Vote Count

November • 2001

At Concordia does

1.6% = 0.5% ?

By Zev Tiefenbach,
Project Coordinator of the Peoples Potato

In October, when all the student groups on campus who collect fees from students were waiting to receive their funding, the University implemented a new financial policy. Enormous changes were made to the procedure in which these student fees would be remitted back to student groups and associations. This decision proved to be very problematic to every student group and association. Representatives from these groups have come together to negotiate for the betterment of student life on campus.

These are the preliminary notes for negotiations with the Chief Financial Officer, Larry English, concerning these changes. The following notes provide a rough sketch for the desired outcome of a long-term deal with Financial Services. They respect the university's position that it should not pay out money that it does not receive while also addressing the concerns student groups presently have with Financial Services as well the dire situation that student groups are presently in as a result of Financial Services' hasty policy change in mid-fiscal year.

1) Dates for Payment

Financial Services, over the years, has been very erratic in terms of the transferring of funds. This year, the situation was especially extreme with an unduly late transferring of fees. As such, in a long-term agreement we seek specific dates that fees will be transferred after which the University will pay student groups a rate of interest equal to the current rate of interest that the University charges students.

2) The Bad Debt Fee

We find it reasonable to pay a portion of bad debt, however, we note that the sky-rocketing rate of unpaid fees is a direct result of changes in University policy that increases its funding from the Quebec government. Student groups should not have to pay while the University benefits. We are willing to pay a bad debt fee, however, it must be a fee that is reasonable and reflects a value prior to the university policy changes.

3) Breakdown of Payments

Suddenly, the University changed its payment structure. While previously student groups were paid approximately 70% of their fees in the fall, 15% of their fees in the winter and 15% of their fees in the summer, the new payment ratio is 40%-40%-20%. This ratio is arbitrary and is completely counter to the requirements of student groups

that need more money at the start of the year (to train staff, to run orientation events, to stock stores and kitchens etc.) We understand the University's rationale for not distributing all the fees in a lump payment, however, the present arrangement (with no notice) creates a financial crisis for many student groups and will require student groups to take loans from the university with which they will have to pay interest to the university.

4) Reverting to Last Year's System

The changes in financial policy from last year to this year have crippled many student groups. Introducing these changes in mid-fiscal year reflects an arrogant attitude on the part of the administration that fundamentally ignores the integrity and importance of all student groups on campus. The financial policy for this fiscal year must remain as it was so that student groups can function within the budgets and commitments that they made for this fiscal year.

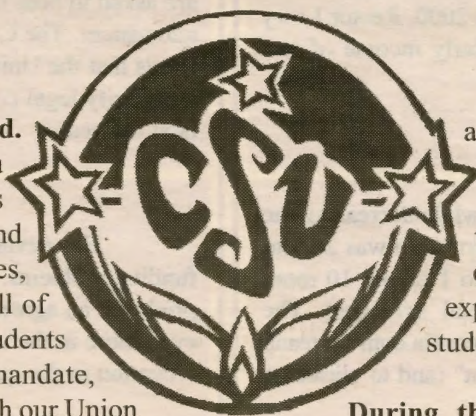


WELCOME To the November UNabridged

Welcome to the November issue of The UnAbridged.

Here at the CSU we are busy making sure that all of you are informed about the upcoming Referenda. The CSU is one of the most democratic organizations on campus, and that's because of structures like General Assemblies, Elections and Referenda. It's extremely important for all of us to participate in these democratic processes. When students vote in a Referendum we develop our Union's mandate, reinforcing what we believe are important issues on which our Union should focus. This is one of the ways that we ensure that the CSU is representing the needs of students at Concordia. All undergraduate students are members of the CSU, so come out on November 27-28-29 to voice your opinion. And don't forget the Presidential debates this week!

Around election time various students voice their frustration with the poster-plastered walls of the Hall building. We understand your concerns, but we



ask everyone to have some patience. Postering is an extremely important mode of communication for student organizing. Posters carry essential information to the student body about the diverse platforms of the competing slates, and the different perspectives being expressed by the candidates hoping to work for Concordia students.

During the crunch of exams and the race for the CSU presidency don't forget that students are part of a broader community. The referenda questions are important issues on campus and beyond.

Make your vote count,
Your CSU executive





Student Interests and Admin Interests

a comparative perspective

By David Bernans, CSU Researcher

As the University Administration's hostility to the CSU reaches an unprecedented level, and Concordia's multi-million dollar PR budget is spent trying to convince the public that the CSU is responsible for everything from poorly attended job fairs to world terrorism, you may be tempted to believe the hype. But before throwing the baby out with the bath water, you might want to consider the source of the anti-union information and the things your union has done for you over the past few years. Doing so reveals a pattern of structural opposition between administrators and student representatives. The very existence of Student Unions is based on defending student interests from powerful administrative apparatuses.

What is a Student Union?

Like a labour union, a Student Union is an independent and democratic organization that seeks to advance the interests of its members (students) by channeling their collective strength through one organization (the Student Union). The Student Union is the official representative of and the official bargaining agent for its members in all dealings with the University Administration. In the province of Quebec, there is legislation to protect the independence of Student Unions that are accredited through a rigorously regulated accreditation process (a student-wide referendum where at least 25% of all students must turn out to vote). The Concordia Student Union was successfully accredited in the fall of 2000, and since that time has been protected by provincial accreditation law. The Student Union is really the only independent organization that can prevent the University Administration from exercising an almost absolute and arbitrary authority over students.

Why should we be skeptical of the University Administration?

Many university administrators are extremely nice and likable people who work with charitable organizations, love their mothers and so on. Nevertheless, as part of an apparatus called "the Administration", their interests diverge from those of students. Just as a company's board of directors will seek to make the most profit while paying the lowest possible wages to its employees, so a university's administration will seek to satisfy the province's "performance requirements" (now enforced in the province of Quebec through the negotiation of "performance contracts") by downloading the cost of education onto the backs of students. Workers need unions to ensure fair pay, on the job safety, etc. Students need unions to ensure quality education, students' rights, accessible education, etc.

How are the interests of students opposed to those of the administration?

The divergent interests of students and the Administration are best exemplified by comparing the behaviour and the political positions of the Concordia Administration with those of the Concordia Student Union over the past few years.

Concordia Administration

Cuts funding to student services. For example, in 1999 funding was completely cut (as in 100%) to the Concordia Women's Centre, in effect jeopardizing the very existence of the Women's Centre service. The University maintained an exclusivity contract with Sodexho-Marriott which made it illegal to eat anything on campus not produced by Sodexho-Marriott. This also made it illegal to put into operation an on-campus service like the People's Potato.

Cuts academic programs. Since 1995-96, 151 programs have been cut at Concordia, reducing by 40% the number of programs offered. The University Administration even recommended closing down the prestigious and internationally known Simone de Beauvoir Institute (Women's Studies does not bring in as much corporate funding as other more "profitable" programs).

Passes on funding cuts to students, increasing the cost of education by inventing new illegal fees (in violation of the provincial tuition freeze). In the past few years, we have seen the invention of new fees like the Capital Campaign Fee (\$2 per credit) and the Administrative Fee (\$9 per credit). These fees can cost up to \$330 per year for full time students.

Gives administrators themselves huge pay increases. In 2000, Rector Lowy received a pay increase of \$30 000 (more than the average yearly income of two students). Lowy's annual pay went from \$170 000 to \$200 000.

Increases class sizes to increase professor "efficiency" (while decreasing the quality of education). In 1994-95 the student to full time professor ratio was 20.9 to 1. By 1999-2000, the professor-student ratio increased to 30.7 to 1 (about 10 more students per teacher than both the national and the provincial averages). The administration has even set up a new corporation called e-concordia.com to teach courses on-line and to make course delivery even more "efficient" (and to eliminate all human contact in the process).

Concordia Student Union



Ensures funding to student services. In 1999, when the University cut all funds to the Women's Centre, the CSU organized a referendum to save the Centre through a \$0.27 per credit fee levy. The CSU also fought the Sodexho-Marriott exclusivity agreement and helped to get the People's Potato community kitchen off the ground with start-up funding (the People's Potato is now an independently funded initiative). The CSU also runs a job and housing bank, an archives office, a health and dental plan for all its members. In January, it will help students establish their own co-op book store.

Fights to maintain programs. The Simone de Beauvoir Institute was saved from the chopping block thanks to the efforts of the CSU, working in alliance with faculty, the Women's Centre, and other groups. The CSU has even offered students free courses conspicuously absent from the University's curriculum.

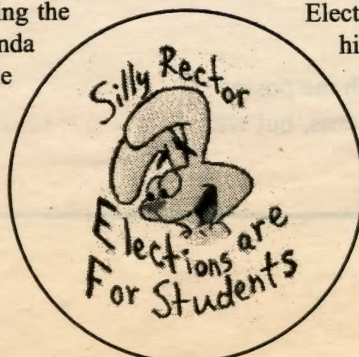
Opposes illegal fee increases. In 1999, the CSU organized a General Assembly and a university-wide strike vote followed by a three-day strike. In a General Assembly held in February of 2000, the CSU executive presented the student body with an agreement negotiated with the administration that would stop the administrative fee from increasing and would also ensure that 20% of all new funding would be used to reduce the fee. Students voted to accept the deal.

Points out the contradiction between massive fee increases that students are asked to bear while administrators get pay increases and entertainment allowances. The CSU is still fighting to see the Hay Group's report of salary levels that the University is using to justify administrators' salary increases. The University legal council claims that we are not allowed to see the report for the next ten years.

Has never considered increasing class size as an acceptable "solution" to funding problems. This was made clear during the 1999-2000 negotiations that produced an agreement on fee reductions. The student union could have achieved even more in the way of fee reductions, but was not prepared to accept a reduction in the quality of education that would have been required in exchange.

Concordia students ought to be just as concerned as the hundreds of individuals and groups that have sent the CSU messages of support while condemning the actions of the administration. Naomi Klein, Noam Chomsky, Linda McQuaig, and many others have denounced the interference of the Concordia University Administration in student politics.

Make sure that the Administration does not get the better of you. Help us keep the University Administration from interfering in the upcoming by-elections. If you see Security or Dean of Students



Office personnel taking down election posters, get their names and notify the Chief Electoral Officer. If your professor reads out memos from the administrative hierarchy in your class, get a photocopy and bring it to the Chief Electoral Officer. If you know anything about the administration giving money, confidential information, free legal advice or any other service to candidates, alert the Chief Electoral Officer. Your anonymity will be respected. These are elections by students and for students, and students only!





Referendum 2001

The CSU Council of Representatives is holding a referendum.
Polls will be open Nov. 27th, 28th, and 29th.

Members will be asked the following questions:

Do you agree to increase the fee for non-academic clubs to \$0.69 per credit in order to increase the level of funding of all our non-academic clubs to around 50% of other universities? This fund would include club and student initiated projects and would not be used for the operating activities of the student union. The fee would be effective Winter 2002 and reimbursable in accordance with the University's billing and refunds policy.

YES/NO

Are you in favor of changing the current media fund of 0.15\$ per credit expiring in Winter 2003 to an ongoing Media Fund of 0.13\$ per credit indexed annually to the CPI index for the city of Montreal to primarily benefit CUTV, CJLO and the Amateur Radio Club, and secondarily, to benefit non-academic clubs. The fee would be effective Winter 2002, applicable equally to all members and reimbursable in accordance with the University's billing and refunds policy?

YES/NO

Are you in favor of democratizing the position of dean of students in annual elections where all students will be eligible to vote instead of only the rector. The outgoing dean will have his/her name automatically placed on the ballot and anybody else can run for the position by filling in the appropriate nomination form. The first election will be held in the Winter semester of 2002 and the elected dean will be accountable to the student body instead of solely to the University administration.

YES/NO

The CSU implores the Canadian government to cease all deliberations relating to the ban on new enrolments of students from Iran, Iraq and Libya in Chemistry courses at Canadian universities. Even considering such measures, and making those considerations public by leaking them to the press, is itself a racist attack on Muslim students and students of Arab origin motivated by war hysteria.

YES/NO

The undergraduate students of Concordia demand the immediate reversal of the University's decision to deduct 1.61% of all the money transferred to CASA, The Concordian, CSU, ECA, FASA, Frigo Vert, The Link, Media Fund, the non-academic clubs' fund, the People's Potato, QPIRG, Women's Centre and to hold the winter fees until January 31st. We are also demanding that the University enters negotiation if they intend to change the system at least 6 months prior to the end of the fiscal year with all the groups cited above. Should the University refuse to reverse the decision within 7 days of this referendum being approved the newly elected executive will launch a vast campaign in order to ensure that these fees are recuperated?

YES/NO

Do you agree with the following statement:

We the students of Concordia express our profound grief and shock towards the massacre of innocent civilians on Sept. 11th, 2001. We offer our fullest sympathies and condolences to the victims, their friends and families.

We call on the government of the United States of America to immediately cease all military operations against Afghanistan and to refer all matters relating to the Sept 11th attacks to a duly convened international court of law where the guilty parties can be ascertained and appropriate measures taken by this court.

Until such a time as the United States completely ceases all military actions against Afghanistan, we direct our student union to take the appropriate measures to organize for peace and justice and to oppose this new war which will only result in the further punishment of innocent civilians in Afghanistan.

We denounce any attempt to place responsibility for the actions of a few upon an entire community, and we will not tolerate any racist acts against Arabs, Muslims or any other ethnic or religious group.

YES/NO

For more info about the coming referenda contact the Chief Electoral Officer

Room: H-640

Tel: 848-7498

Email: ceo@csu.tao.ca

Make your Vote Count





Democratize the Dean

marina tarantini, VP Resources



Did you ever cast a vote for our Dean of Students? I don't remember ever being asked to choose who I felt could represent and understand my needs as a student the best. That's because our Dean of Students was hired by the University fifteen years ago.

Contrary to what the title Dean of Students might have you believe this position is not accountable to students. The Dean does not answer to any student organization, committee or structure, she/he is accountable to (gasp!) just another un-elected University Administrator: the Vice-Rector Services.

As you may or may not already know, administrators at Concordia are hired for a five-year term, at the end of which, if the administrator wishes to keep the position, a committee appointed by Concordia's Board of Governors evaluates their performance. The result of this evaluation helps determine whether or not the person gets to keep the job. However, the Dean of Students is not even subject to this type of evaluation process. She/he is hired for an indeterminate length of time. Whether or not our Dean is doing a good job is up to the Vice-Rector Services and our Rector, neither of whom are elected or directly accountable to students. So if we feel our Dean is not doing a good job, we can call DiGrappa or Lowy and complain, hoping they'll do something about it (and in a way that is productive and credible), or we can start a grassroots campaign calling for the resignation of the Dean. But neither of these options have a guaranteed result. As students, we do not have any concrete productive process through which we ensure that the person being paid to advocate on our behalf, help us with our projects and our groups, and hear our concerns about student life and assist in making changes and improvements on campus, is actually doing a good job.

Student Services New Mission Statement

Concordia University Student Services provides a network of expertise, resources and programs to facilitate and enhance students' academic and personal development. We advocate for students, support diversity, and encourage a strong sense of community. We are committed to evaluating and adapting our practices to meet current and evolving needs in partnership with students, faculty and staff.

The Dean of Students should be representative of the student body's needs. It is irrelevant whether or not the Vice-Rector Services and the Rector remember what it was like when they were undergrads and believe they can talk and empathize with students. Why rely on a third party (who hasn't been a student for years) to interpret and attempt to act out what the students need when those

students can have a say directly? "One of the purposes of a University is to learn a number of life lessons, one of which being to control your own affairs [...]" (Dr. Donald Boisvert, current Dean of Students).^{*} By having our Dean of Students elected by the student body we can ensure that the person chosen has been put in that position because they possess the qualities, skills and knowledge that students know are essential in dealing with student life and student affairs. An elected Dean means an accountable Dean. It means that we can also put policies and structures in place to ensure that any concerns students have about their Dean are dealt with productively and even pro-actively. And most importantly, it means that we can regularly evaluate the effectiveness of the position and give space for new ideas and possibilities for improvement.



did you vote for this man?

An election for our Dean of Students would create a space for debate and reflection about the purpose of the Dean of Students' position and the work that needs to be done. The present Dean will automatically be considered a candidate, and it will be a great opportunity for the Dean to explain publicly his performance and the different decisions he has taken, and to share ideas about possible improvements to the Dean of Students Office. The election also gives other people a chance to run for the position and discuss how they would work for students. The present Dean of Students, Donald Boisvert, has held the position for fifteen years without any student-endorsed evaluation process. Donald Boisvert may not be taking this issue seriously: when *The Concordian* asked about the idea of an election for the position his response was to laugh.^{*} But for Boisvert, an election would serve as an evaluation by Concordia students, and if elected, Boisvert would know that he was there because the students of Concordia wanted him to be there, and not because some University committee thought he was the best applicant fifteen years ago.

^{*} "Past Tense." Jeb Bloch. *The Concordian*, volume 19, issue 11. 14/11/01.

The Dean of Students Office is:

- * the office to contact to register your student organization
- * one of the places where you can book space for your student organization
- * where you apply for a liquor license for your organization's gathering
- * an Information Center (Loyola Campus) with touch-tone screens and more
- * where you apply for funding for your project
- * where you'll find a Commissioner of Oaths
- * responsible for the official Concordia Yearbook
- * where you can call if you need a tutor or would like to become one
- * where you can go if you want to talk about your student association
- * where you will find resources and people to help you make sense of your concerns about the quality of student life at the University

(From the Student Services Information Pamphlet)

By-Elections and Referendum Information

By-Elections and Referendum polling takes place November 27th, 28th, 29th.
10am to 7pm

Bring your Concordia Undergraduate ID to be able to vote.

Polling Booths will be open at locations around both campuses including:

AD Building Lobby -Loyola
7th Floor -SWG
Hall Building Lobby -SWG
Visual Arts Building -SWG

...other locations will be announced.





Racism, Ethnic Profiling and National Security in our Universities

By David Bernans, CSU Researcher

Eleven days after the tragic events of September 11th the *National Post* ran an article under the headline "All foreign students face tougher scrutiny, Backlash from attacks: Federal spy agency to help keep out undesirables". The article explains how CSIS (Canadian Security and Intelligence Service, the Canadian spy agency that combines functions of both the FBI and the CIA) and Citizenship and Immigration Canada are working together to weed out what they perceive to be threats to Canada's national security. Included in this category are all citizens of countries such as Libya and Iran who want to study biology, nuclear science, pilot training "or anything related to the military", according to Citizenship and Immigration Canada spokesperson Susan Scarlett.

On October 2nd, the *Toronto Sun* cited another Citizenship and Immigration Canada spokesperson responding to criticisms by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) that its "terrorism watch list", which targets Iran, Iraq and Libya, constitutes prejudice against Arabs and Muslims. CFS deputy chairperson Jenn Anthony was arguing against ethnic profiling as a security measure, imploring the Canadian government to respect civil liberties by allowing students from these countries to learn subjects like chemistry.

An awareness campaign spearheaded by the CFS and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives has produced a healthy level of public criticism of the government's measures, especially in the education sector. History Professor David Noble warned the participants at the

Canadian Association of University Teachers conference in Ottawa that the draconian measures being taken in Canada and especially in the United States (where universities are being asked to provide confidential student information to the FBI) are creating a dangerous precedent of educational institutions and the security-military establishment working "hand in glove".

As critical public awareness began to spread, the same Susan Scarlett who was quoted in the *National Post* began backtracking. In the November 6th issue of the *University of Western Ontario Gazette* (more than a month after the *National Post* article first appeared), she claims that the *National Post* and the *Toronto Sun* articles were based on "incorrect information" and she denies that ethnic profiling is practiced by her department.

The public debate on this issue has yet to produce any clear consensus on the truth of the matter. Many questions remain unanswered. Why did both the *National Post* and the *Toronto Sun* produce reports by different authors using different sources, that give the same "incorrect information"? Why did Citizenship and Immigration Canada wait more than a month to correct that information? What are the specific criteria used by Citizenship and Immigration Canada and CSIS to determine who is a security threat?

Unfortunately, we are unlikely to get answers to these questions any time soon. Citizenship and Immigration Canada will not release its security screening policies and

CSIS won't even talk about theirs. For two weeks the Canadian Federation of Students has been trying to get a meeting with Citizenship and Immigration Canada without any response.

The CSU referendum on this issue is the only question that will produce a definitive response. Concordia students will answer "Yes" or "No" to the following:

"The CSU implores the Canadian government to cease all deliberations relating to the ban on new enrolments of students from Iran, Iraq and Libya in chemistry courses at Canadian universities. Even considering such measures, and making those considerations public by leaking them to the press, is itself a racist attack on Muslim students and students of Arab origin motivated by war hysteria."

Even a strong "Yes" on this question is unlikely to produce an immediate response from Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Nevertheless, if the diverse Concordia student body unites with other groups across the country fighting on the same issue, the Canadian government may start listening and may even be forced to come clean about the role of racism and ethnic profiling in the development of its immigration policies.

Students Speak about September 11th

By Abdel Beedassy,
Spokesperson for the CSU Council

On September 11th, 2001, the world witnessed a terrible tragedy. Two major cities in the United States of America were subjected to terrorist attacks. Four hijacked planes targeted the very symbols of American world domination: two planes hit the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, one plane hit the military section of the Pentagon in Washington and another crashed before it hit its target, which remains officially unconfirmed.

Explosions, fire, the crumbling of high-rise buildings, clouds of dust and hundreds of deaths resulted. The events were instantly broadcast on every major television, radio and internet stations around the world. The tragedy was live and the entire world looked on in shock and panic as they witnessed the destruction.

Contrary to the beliefs of some, the disaster is not about the demolition of massive pieces of XXth century architecture and important symbols of western civilisation, nor is it about the economic impacts surrounding the events. The reason we qualify September 11th as a tragic day is that hundreds of innocent people died that morning and, because of the powerful reactionary forces in the world, thousands more will lose their lives.

The powers of the world are at war, and like in any violent war, it is the people who become the victims. It is the people who suffer the most. It is the people who die.

It is the hard working men and women who were getting ready for another day on the job in the World Trade Center who died. It is the family members and relatives of the victims who, as a consequence, are in the greatest pain. It is the innocent Arab and Muslim who gets blamed for the attacks who is tormented the most by racist reactionaries. It is the civilian Afghans who risk losing their homes and lives who bear the heaviest load in this war. Any way you put it, it is always the people who pay the price of war.

Therefore, as members of the CSU council and as

Concordia students, we should stand in solidarity with the victims of war. We should denounce any attempt to place responsibility for the actions of a few upon an entire community, and we should not tolerate any racist acts against Arabs, Muslims or any other ethnic or religious group.

Now is a time to show compassion and to support the victims of war. Now is a time to show respect for the dignity of all people in order to celebrate all human life. Now, more than ever, is a time to celebrate human creativity rather than the human capacity for great violence. Now is a time to stop the war.

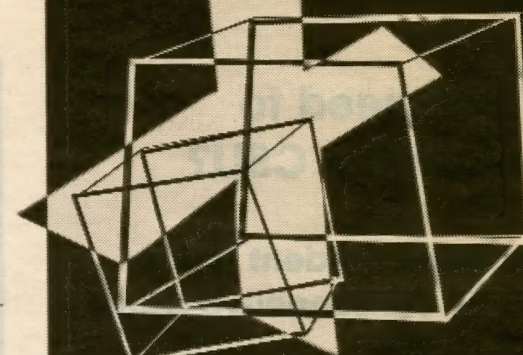
As Pearl S. Buck said, every great mistake has a halfway moment, a split second when it can be recalled and possibly remedied. Perhaps the present context is precisely the split second in question. The moment where history may be reversed. Where we, as students, can speak out and say: "Enough, killing is NOT the answer!" Our voices and words together can go a long way...

As members of the CSU council and Concordia students, we wish to express our profound grief and shock towards the massacre of innocent civilians on Sept. 11th, 2001. We offer our fullest sympathies and condolences to the victims and their friends and families. The CSU undertakes with all the means at its disposal to comfort all those within the Concordia community affected by this horrible event.

We affirm our wish to see those responsible for the massacre brought to justice and we denounce any attempt to place responsibility for the actions of a few upon an entire community, and we will not tolerate any racist acts against Arabs, Muslims or any other ethnic or religious group.

We will not dishonour the memory of the victims by allowing people to be silenced by racist, militaristic reactions.

Find out what
candidates
think
about your concerns
before you elect them?



the presidential
debates:
helping you make
an informed choice

Loyola campus: Tuesday Nov. 20th 12:30 to 3pm at the Hive
SGW campus: Thursday Nov. 22nd 12:30 to 3pm in H-110



Electoral officers are
presently being sought
to help out during the
upcoming by-elections.

To Apply, drop off your CV at the Chief
Electoral Officer's office at H-640
or at the CSU reception located at H-637
(to the CEO's attention). You may also
e-mail it to: deo_mj@hotmail.com



A Fight to Keep the Right to Inform

By Benoit Desgreniers, VP Outreach

As anyone involved in a student group at Concordia knows, postering is an essential tool to reach our constituencies. Due to time and financial constraints, postering is the most efficient way for student groups and individuals to inform the student population at large about events and issues that are important to them. Nevertheless, in the last few months the University Administration has started a field war to rip down student groups' posters around campus.

Dealing with postering on campus was made a part of Donald Boivert's (Dean of Students) portfolio and, as usual, he acted quickly to fulfill the wishes of the Administration while ignoring students' interests. Little laminated posters saying "NO POSTING-DÉFENSE D'AFFICHER" were placed all over the Hall Building and the dean hired a student to rip down posters around campus. Although the Dean tried to legitimate the new approach by claiming that it was aimed at commercial posters, not student groups' events, and that posters were considered a fire hazard when not posted on a cork post board, the result was obvious. Student groups' posters were ripped down in a matter of hours all over campus. The new approach of the Concordia admin had become a zero tolerance policy without even informing students. In their usual way, the admin attacked our rights and then decided to sit down and talk to us about it.

The Dean of Students' new postering policy

When the CSU and other student organisations started to fight the new policy, the Dean of Students' office said that they were working on a solution. That so-called solution was to order 80 new cork poster boards to place around the SGW campus, and then to draft a new poster policy that all student groups will have to follow.

The new poster boards ordered by the Dean of Students raise a number of questions and problems for student groups. First of all, will 80 new boards be enough for student groups to effectively post around campus? From what we see now, since many of the already existing poster boards are stuffed with many layers of paper, it appears that 80 poster boards will not be enough for the downtown campus.

Secondly, will those boards be placed in convenient places around the downtown campus? We know that many essential areas will have only a few poster boards or none at all. The Dean's office planned not to put any poster boards on the walls around the escalators in the Hall building, and only a couple in the library building.

Thirdly, will the poster boards really be less of a fire hazard than postering directly on the walls? This is an important question since the university is using the fire hazard issue as their main justification for this new policy towards postering. Apparently, under the city fire hazard guidelines, it is prohibited to put posters directly on the walls of internal public spaces and it is recommended to put up poster boards. However, looking around campus, it would seem apparent that poster boards that have a couple layers of paper are an even greater fire hazard, since all the posters are usually loose and concentrated into one big stack of paper.

When the City of Montreal Fire Prevention Department was asked about poster boards, they agreed that a board filled with a couple layers of semi-loose posters is a fire hazard. Obviously, unless the university puts up massive numbers of poster boards (we're talking in the hundreds), we will definitely end up with large amounts of paper concentrated onto a few poster boards.

Finally, the new poster boards have already been ordered, without any official consultation with student groups, trying to force us to accept a *fait accompli*. With the principle of "shoot first, ask questions later," the Dean of Students' office is now trying to legitimate this *fait accompli* by "proposing" a new postering policy. The draft of the new postering policy was developed by the two co-ordinators of student affairs we have had since the beginning of the year, Ali Mohamed and Michael Golden (who were both hired without any student consultation... a habit of Dr. Boivert's).

The "proposed" draft of the new postering policy is problematic for student groups. The most important one is the "penalties" section. Student groups caught breaking the policy twice "shall lose the privilege of posting posters for one academic term," and upon a third violation they will lose the "privilege" for a full academic year. In addition, the group in question "may lose the right to use University property and facilities for its activities for one academic year." Not only are the penalties unacceptable, they are also illegal under the Quebec Ministry of Education's accreditation laws governing student organisations. It would appear that the university administration still hasn't read the accreditation laws properly, more than a year after the CSU received its accreditation.

Other parts of the "proposed" policy say that students can no longer post inside classrooms or washrooms at any time, that posters bigger than 11X17 need special authorisation, that groups need special permission to have more than 30 posters stamped, and so on. In brief, if we allow them to enforce the new postering policy, it will become quite difficult for student groups and individuals to properly inform our constituencies.

What we can do about it?

Since the beginning of this latest crackdown on the rights of student groups to express their ideas and inform their members, the CSU has been continuously confronting and lobbying the administration on this issue. As a result of pressure focused on the Dean of Students by the CSU and other student groups, the little "no posting" posters were removed and student groups putting posters on the walls of the university are, to a certain extent, 'tolerated.' However, this is only a beginning.

We are now negotiating to have a postering policy for student groups that respects our rights and interests and it is essential that you get involved. Go read the draft of the new postering policy that is available on the CSU website (www.csu.tao.ca) and send us your feedback and concerns about it at outreach@csu.tao.ca.

If you want to get more involved on this issue send me an email at the same address. You can also send an e-mail to the Dean of Students (Donald Boivert's e-mail is dlb@alcor.concordia.ca) to let him know that you are concerned about your right to post opinions and information in the university. Finally, make sure that the postering issue is raised in the by-election campaign, to ensure that the next executive will do something about it. Postering in the university is a right and not a "privilege" as claimed in the draft of the new postering policy. Any attempt by the University Administration to limit it is an attack on our freedom of expression.

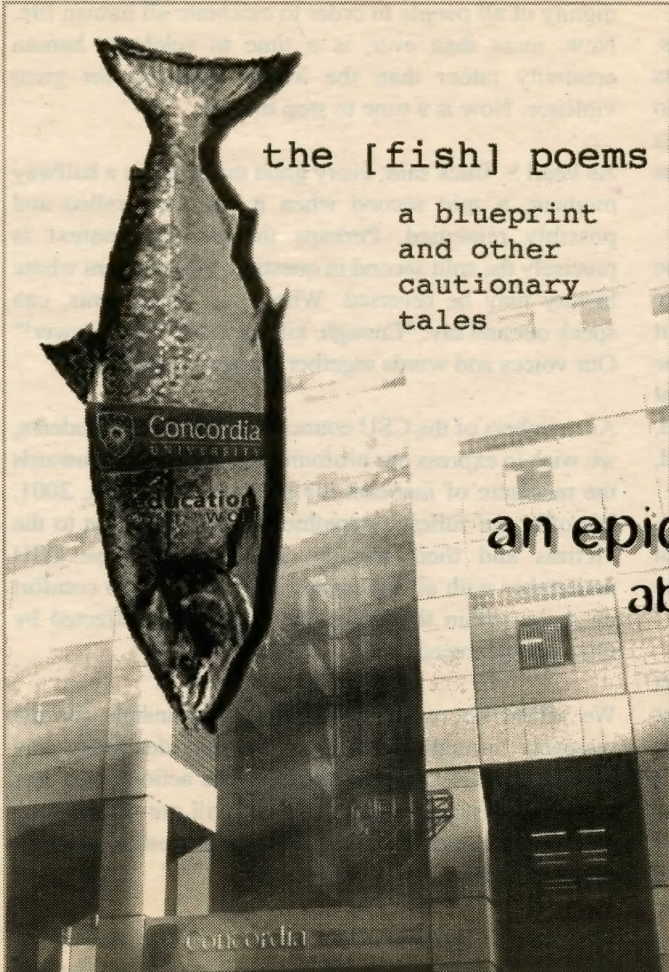
So you need to contact the CSU?

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[Http://www.csu.tao.ca](http://www.csu.tao.ca)



the [fish] poems
a blueprint
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cautionary
tales

there's something
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the CSU office



Linda McQuaig Resistance to Corporate-Capitalism is More Important than Ever

by Riel Dupuis-Rossi, Outreach

Canadian author and journalist Linda McQuaig came to Concordia on November 8th to promote her new book *All You Can Eat: Greed, Lust and the New Capitalism*. The focus of her talk was the "new capitalism" which has developed over the past few decades and is "about giving more power to the market, and to the corporate interests who dominate the market." Privatization, deregulation, downsizing and cutting back on public services are central parts of this new social order.

According to McQuaig, the "new capitalism" is being imposed on the world through western-dominated international financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Conditions imposed by these institutions force countries to "remodel their economies in ways that are favourable to western corporate interests, but are not necessarily in the interests of the people in these countries". The IMF and the World Bank generally require countries to privatize public sectors of the economy such as water and communications systems, to cut wages, to remove local subsidies for food and to adopt an export-led model of "development".

McQuaig used the Metalclad case to illustrate how mechanisms such as trade and investment deals are being used to pressure countries to conform to the economic rules established by the corporate agenda. Metalclad, an American company, had plans to establish a toxic waste dump near the town of Guadalupe, Mexico. Fearing that the project would contaminate their drinking water, the people living in the area of the future landfill refused to give Metalclad a building permit under Mexican law. Under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Metalclad brought the case to a tribunal which ruled that Mexico, by refusing to issue the building permit, had infringed the company's rights. The government of Mexico was ordered to pay Metalclad \$20 million dollars in damages. According to McQuaig, the Metalclad case demonstrates how international trade agreements "create a whole new set of rights for corporations that give them far-reaching powers to challenge democratically-elected governments, essentially placing the profit-making rights of corporations above the rights of citizens to take collective action in their own interest."

Not only does the "new capitalism" undermine democracy, destroy the environment and threaten our health, but it also condemns the majority of humanity to live in poverty.



Canadian government based on the claim that the subsidies allocated to Canadian universities create "terms of trade" that give domestic universities an unfair advantage.

Not only does the "new capitalism" undermine democracy, destroy the environment and threaten our health, but it also condemns the majority of humanity to live in poverty. For instance, a World Bank report cited by McQuaig reveals that between 1988 and 1993, 75% of the world's population experienced a decline in their standard of living. The poorest 300 million were hit the hardest and lost 25% of their total revenue. What McQuaig makes clear is that the "new capitalism" is not about the imposition of abstract economic rules on the peoples of the world, but is about imposing a system that creates grave inequalities to the benefit of a small corporate elite. This system is also a threat to democracy in that it directly undermines our ability to organize collectively and to serve community interests. In McQuaig's view, when a social system develops that poses a direct threat to the collective interest, it is natural to challenge it rather than adapt to such a system -- even if it means being marginalised. When asked about the significance of resisting corporate dominance in today's political climate, McQuaig responds that "it is more important than ever."

Linda McQuaig is a Journalist and author who writes for The Globe and Mail, The Toronto Star and Maclean's Magazine, as well as being a regular contributor to CBC Radio. She is Winner of a National Newspaper Award and an Atkinson Fellowship for Journalism in Public Policy, she has written five books, including Shooting the Hippo and, most recently, The Cult of Impotence. E-mail: lmcquaig@total.net

Messages for the Concordia Rector...

Selected quotes from letters of support sent to Rector Lowy

"Students should be allowed to freely elect the people who represent them in their dealings with the administration. We consider your call for a provincial investigation into the affairs of the Concordia Student Union to be entirely unwarranted. The Student Union has done nothing illegal by producing a controversial student agenda. Nor is it illegal to criticize corporations that profit from human rights abuses"

- Fred Hahn, President CUPE Local 219, Executive Board -- CUPE Ontario

"These actions suggest to us that the Concordia administration respects neither the right of Concordia students to hold and express dissenting views, nor their right to an independent student union. We demand that the Concordia administration refrain from interfering in student union politics. Furthermore, we urge all parties involved to work towards making Concordia a tolerant and anti-oppressive space where diverse and controversial political views can be expressed."

- York University Graduate Students Association

"I can understand how a University administrator might become upset with some of the positions taken by student representatives. For example, student opposition to globalization and the increasing corporatization of our society may interfere with university fundraising. However, that does not give you the right to impose your views on them or to manipulate their affairs in such a way as to achieve a particular result."

The student council is there to advocate on behalf of students' interests. Interference by University administration is paternalistic and anti-democratic and should not be countenanced in a free society."

-William Saunders, Secretary-Treasurer Media Union of BC, and President of the Vancouver and District Labour Council

"Tout comme le CSU, la SOGEECOM a pour mission de défendre les droits matériels et moraux de ses membres et contrairement à vous, nous croyons que l'association n'a pas dérogé de ses mandats au cours de la dernière année. Bien au contraire, nous regrettons plutôt que vous vous soyez ingéré dans les affaires de cette association. C'est d'ailleurs pour ces raisons que nous voulons par la présente affirmer notre appui à l'exécutif du CSU."

-L'exécutif de la SOGEECOM (Société générale des étudiantes et des étudiants du collège de Maisonneuve Inc.)

"As an alumni and as a part time professor, in response to your memo of Oct. 24 [sent by the Concordia alumni association], I must say that it is deplorable that a part of our youth is being bullied into abandoning its critical spirit and even its spirit of rebellion, and all this in a historical period in which the powers that be are seeking to ridicule all dissent."

- Mary Ellen Davis, Concordia Fine Arts Alumni and Part-time Faculty

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weekday. For more information contact Cybel at
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